

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 HA-05 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
PA-01 USIE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 /034 W
-----028841 292147Z /64
O 292110Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6125

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, UY
SUBJECT: ABA VISIT

REF: STATE 76953

1. EMBASSY WISHES TO REPORT FOLLOWING FURTHER ARRANGEMENTS AND COMMENTS FOR CONSIDERATION OF ABA MISSION.

2. VICE PRESIDENT AND PRINCIPAL PERSONALITY OF LOCAL BAR ASSOCIATION, ANIBAL BARBAGELATA HAS OFFERED TO HOST, IN NAME OF ASSOCIATION, RECEPTION FOR MISSION AND WE HAVE GIVEN GO-AHEAD, INDICATING MONDAY, APRIL 3 AT 7:00 P.M. AS APPROPRIATE TIME. HE EXPECTS TO INVITE SOME 50-100 GUESTS, INCLUDING ASSOCIATION OFFICIALS, YOUNGER LAWYERS, OTHER LAWYERS WHO ARE THEMSELVES, OR WHOSE CLIENTS ARE VICTIMS OF SOME OF THE MORE EGREGIOUS CASES OF GOU ABUSE, PLUS ANY OTHER MISSION AND/OR EMBASSY WISH TO SUGGEST. WE AND BARBAGELATA VIEW THIS AS VERY USEFUL MEANS OF EXPOSING MISSION TO BROAD SPECTRUM OF MEMBERS OF LOCAL BAR. IT WILL LIKEWISE PROVIDE THE COVER OF NUMBERS FOR ANYONE WHO WILL ALSO WISH TO SEE MISSION PRIVATELY BUT MAY FEAR GOU REPRISALS. IN THIS REGARD WE WILL SUGGEST INVITATIONS BE EXTENDED TO THOSE ALREADY PLANNING SEPARATE SMALLER WORKING SESSIONS WITH MISSION. PLEASE CONFIRM
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ACCEPTABILITY THESE ARRANGEMENTS.

3. WE EXPECT THAT SOME ATTENTION IS BEING GIVEN TO THE PRESS ASPECTS OF THIS VISIT. THE FACT OF THE MISSION IS ALREADY SUFFICIENTLY WELL KNOWN THAT BUTLER AND REQUE CAN EXPECT TO BE PURSUED BY THE PRESS FROM THE MOMENT OF THEIR ARRIVAL. IN ORDER TO AVOID BEING MISREPRESENTED,

OR HAVING AN UNGUARDED COMMENT SEIZED UPON AND DISTORTED, WE SUGGEST THAT MISSION PREPARE A SHORT WRITTEN STATEMENT, IN SPANISH FOR DISTRIBUTION AT THE AIRPORT, ON THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF THE GROUP AND ITS VISIT. THIS STATEMENT SHOULD STRESS THE PRIVATE, NON-GOVERNMENTAL NATURE OF THE ABA MISSION, AND ITS INTENTION TO ABSTAIN FROM PUBLIC COMMENTS UNTIL ABLE TO REPORT ITS FINDINGS IN CAMERA TO GOU OFFICIALS AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE VISIT. IN LINE WITH THIS, WE RECOMMEND TEAM SCHEDULE AND ANNOUNCE PRE-DEPARTURE PRESS CONFERENCE (WE SUGGEST 2:00 P.M., FRIDAY, APRIL 7 AT THEIR HOTEL). THIS WOULD HOPEFULLY KEEP THE PRESS AT BAY UNTIL AFTER THE SUBSTANTIVE PORTION OF THE VISIT AND ENABLE TEAM TO SUMMARIZE ITS RESULTS IN AS MUCH (OR AS LITTLE) DETAIL AS SEEMS DESIRABLE.

4. IN ADDITION, WE SUGGEST THAT TEAM HAVE PREPARED, IN SPANISH FOR DISTRIBUTION LOCALLY, RESUME OF BIO-GRAPHIC DATA ON BUTLER AND REQUE; AND BRIEF DESCRIPTIVE INFORMATION ON ABA AND ITS INTERESTS AND ACTIVITIES IN THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE. WE WOULD FIND IT USEFUL TO HAVE ADVANCE TEXT OF ABOVE CABLED TO EMBASSY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

5. AS DEPARTMENT AND ABA MISSION AWARE, WE HAVE BEEN TAKING ACTIVE BEHIND-THE-SCENES PART IN ENCOURAGING GOU TO PREPARE ITSELF APPROPRIATELY FOR THIS VISIT. WE HAVE ALSO MADE DISCRETE CONTACT WITH A NUMBER OF WELL-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PLACED LAWYERS IN PRIVATE PRACTICE TO ASSURE ADEQUATE RESPONSE ON THE PART OF THE LEGAL COMMUNITY. IT IS BY NOW OBVIOUS THAT THERE WILL BE SIZEABLE RESPONSE. IN ADDITION TO THE CONTACTS WE HAVE PROPOSED, AND THOSE IN PROCESS OF BEING DEVELOPED BY THE LOCAL BAR, THE ABA MISSION WILL BE GENERATING OTHERS ON ITS OWN. WE HAVE REACHED THE STAGE WHERE THE NON-OFFICIAL ASPECTS OF THE ABA MISSION NOW CALL FOR A DEGREE OF COORDINATION WHICH CANNOT BE PROVIDED BY THE EMBASSY WITHOUT STEPPING OUT OF ITS PREVIOUS DISCRETE ROLE INTO ONE OF OPEN MANAGEMENT -- A POSTURE WHICH WILL NOT SERVE THE PURPOSE OF THE VISIT. WE THEREFORE STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT SOMEONE -- LOGICALLY LUIS REQUE -- COME TO MONTEVIDEO AS FAR AS POSSIBLE IN ADVANCE OF THE MISSION TO ORGANIZE ITS GROWING NON-OFFICIAL PROGRAM. WE FULLY REALIZE IT MAY NOT BE FEASIBLE AT THIS STAGE AND WITH SUCH SHORT NOTICE. NEVERTHELESS, WE URGE THAT THE IDEA BE EXPLORED, AS IT IS OBVIOUS THAT THE MISSION'S VISIT NEEDS AN ADVANCE MAN.

6. WITH REGARD TO SPECIFIC ISSUE RAISED PARA TWO REFTEL, WE BELIEVE IT WOULD PROVE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE TO INTRODUCE THE ISSUE OF PRISON VISITS AT THIS LATE STAGE.

THIS QUESTION HAS NOT BEEN RAISED BEFORE, AND WOULD DEPART
FROM THE PROSPECTUS OF THE VISIT AS SET FORTH IN THE SPANN AND
DEWIND LETTERS TO PRESIDENT MENDEZ. RATHER, WE WOULD
SUGGEST THAT MISSION CONSIDER LEAVING WRITTEN APPEAL FOR
INFORMATION IN CERTAIN CASES (ON WHICH WE CAN CONSULT WITH
MISSION) WHERE EXERCISE OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES
APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN PRIME OR SOLE CUASE OF IMPRISONMENT.
SUCH A LIST, SHOULD PROBABLY BE PRESENTED TO THE MINISTER OF
JUSTICE WITH COPIES PROVIDED TO PRESIDENT MENDEZ AND ANY
SENIOR MILITARY WITH WHOM MISSION HAS DEPARTURE CONFERENCE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, VISITS, ATTORNEYS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MONTEV01034
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780136-1060
Format: TEL
From: MONTEVIDEO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780314/aaaaalhe.tel
Line Count: 126
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: db7c5ebb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 76953
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3171011
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ABA VISIT
TAGS: SHUM, UY, AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/db7c5ebb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014